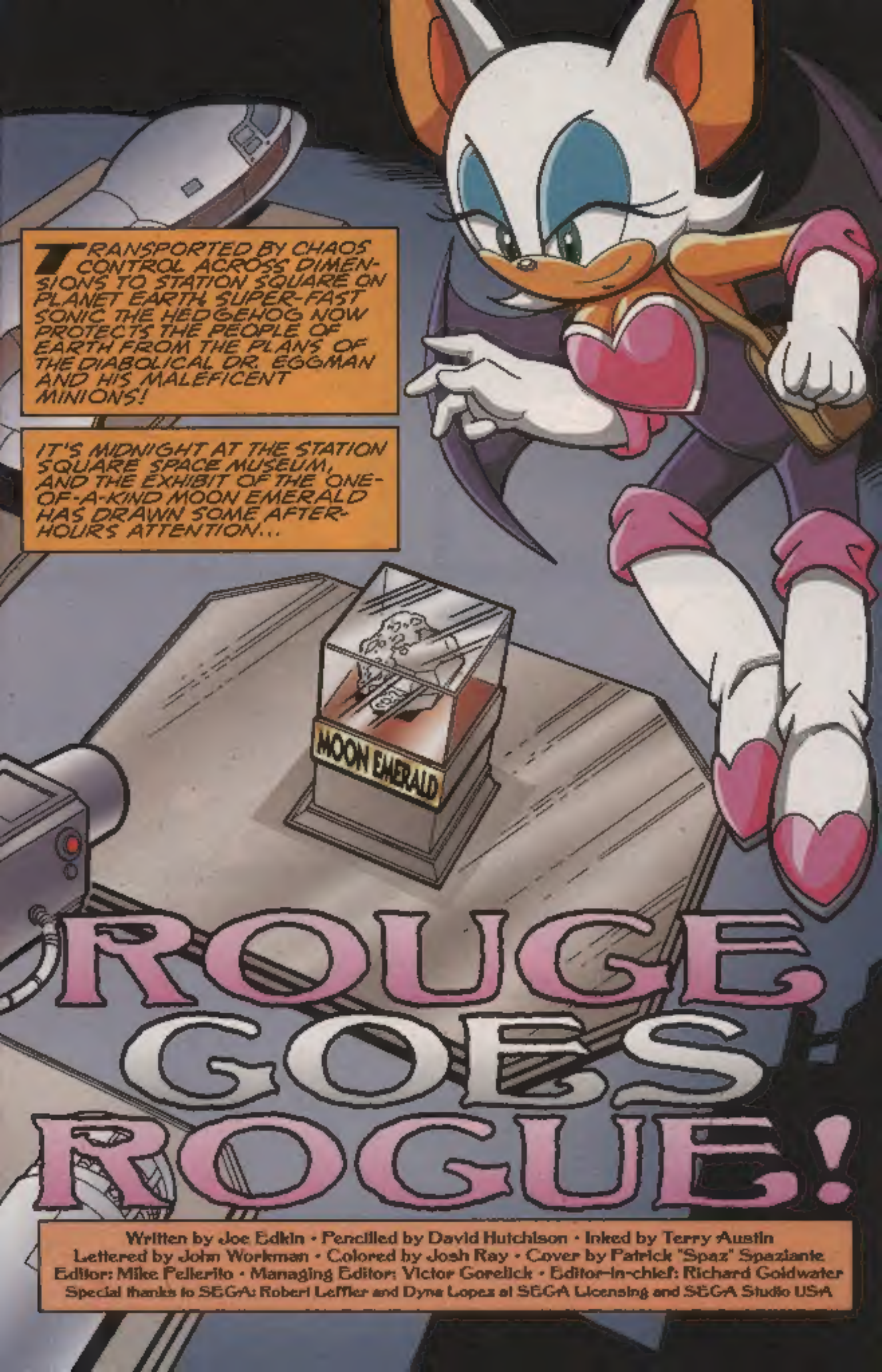


SONIC X™

MISSING GEM?
NO, I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY RARE,
EXPENSIVE, PRICELESS GEMS.
WHY?



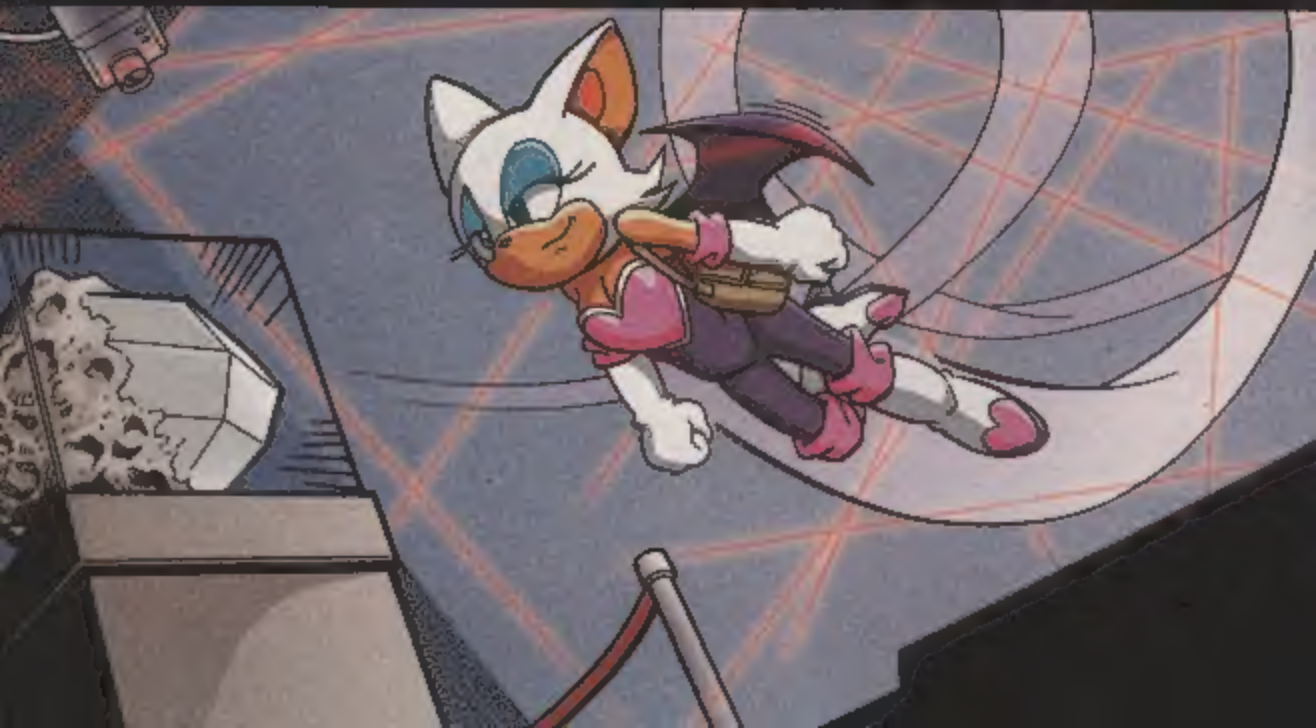
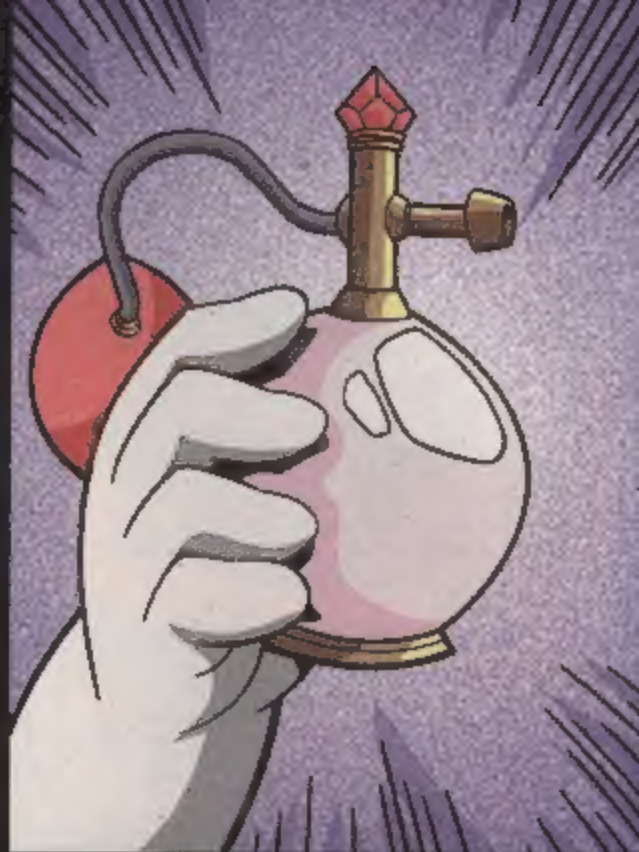
A full-page illustration of Rouge the Bat. She is a white bat-like character with large orange ears, blue eyes, and a confident smile. She is wearing a purple dress with a pink heart-shaped cutout at the chest and pink gloves and shoes. She is leaning forward, pointing her right hand towards the viewer. In the background, there is a museum exhibit featuring a glass display case on a pedestal. The case contains a small figure of a character and is labeled "MOON EMERALD". The setting appears to be a museum with various exhibits and a satellite dish visible in the upper left.

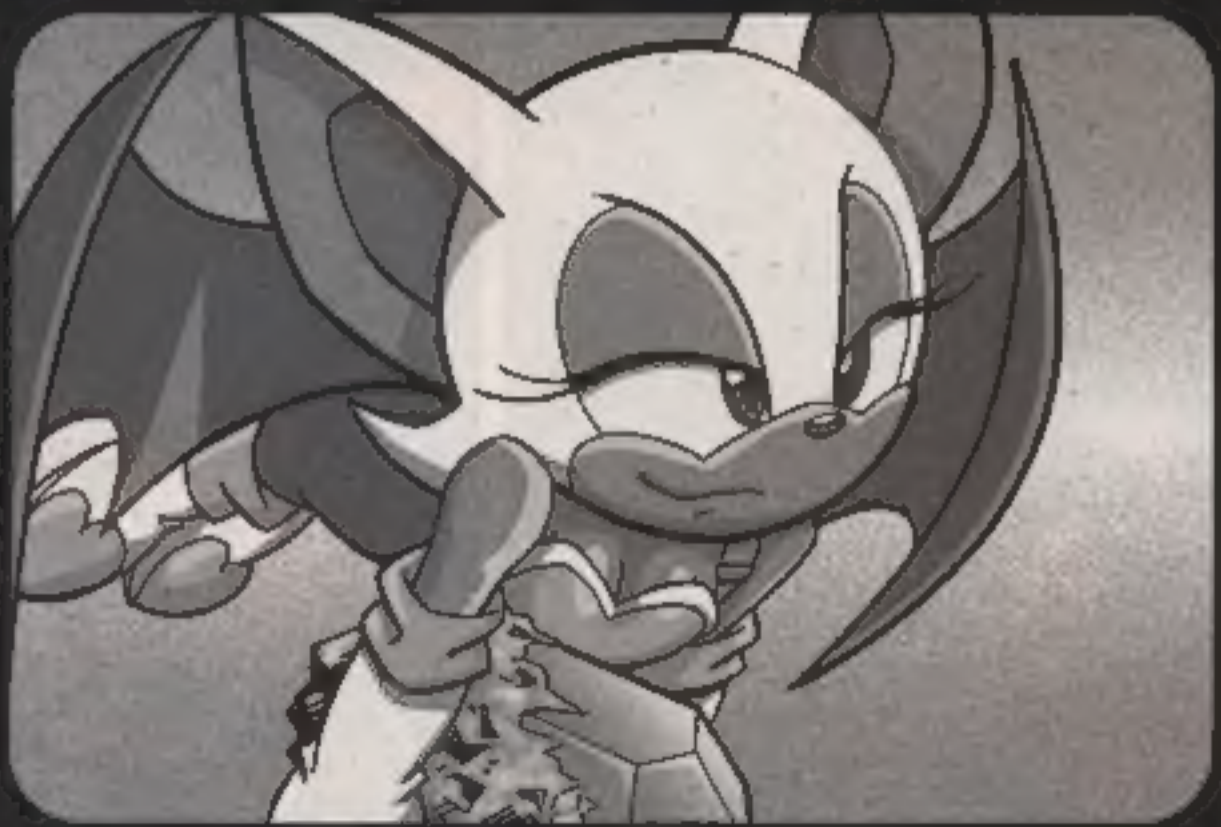
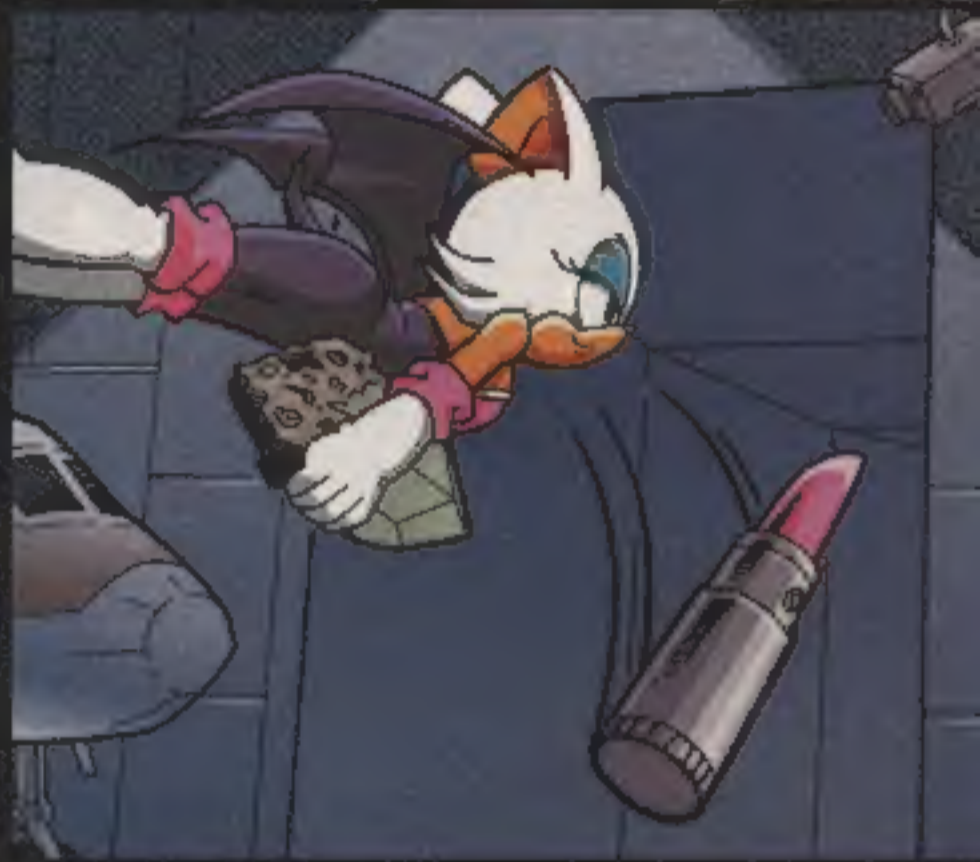
TRANSPORTED BY CHAOS CONTROL ACROSS DIMENSIONS TO STATION SQUARE ON PLANET EARTH, SUPER-FAST SONIC THE HEDGEHOG NOW PROTECTS THE PEOPLE OF EARTH FROM THE PLANS OF THE DIABOLICAL DR. EGGMAN AND HIS MALEFICENT MINIONS!

IT'S MIDNIGHT AT THE STATION SQUARE SPACE MUSEUM, AND THE EXHIBIT OF THE ONE-OF-A-KIND MOON EMERALD HAS DRAWN SOME AFTER-HOURS ATTENTION...

ROUGE GOES ROGUE!

Written by Joe Edkin • Pencilled by David Hutchison • Inked by Terry Austin
Lettered by John Workman • Colored by Josh Ray • Cover by Patrick "Spaz" Spaziante
Editor: Mike Pellerito • Managing Editor: Victor Gorelick • Editor-in-chief: Richard Goldwater
Special thanks to SEGA: Robert Leffler and Dyna Lopez at SEGA Licensing and SEGA Studio USA





THE NEXT MORNING, AT THORNDYKE MANSION, CHRIS WATCHES TELEVISION WITH HIS FRIENDS TAILS THE FOX AND SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!

... AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT MADE AN ARREST IN THE DARING THEFT OF THE MOON EMERALD FROM STATION SQUARE'S SPACE MUSEUM...

... BUT SECURITY CAMERAS CLEARLY SHOW ROUGE THE BAT ESCAPING WITH THE RARE GEM.

I CAN'T BELIEVE ROUGE STOLE THE MOON EMERALD!

I THOUGHT SHE GAVE UP BEING A THIEF WHEN SHE BECAME A GUARDIAN UNITS OF THE NATIONS AGENT.

I DON'T BUY IT EITHER, TAILS.

REMEMBER WHEN SHADOW WAS COMMITTING CRIMES... AND EVERYONE THOUGHT IT WAS ME?*

MAYBE THE SAME THING IS HAPPENING TO ROUGE, AND IF IT IS, I'VE GOT TO HELP HER!

*AS SEEN DURING THE SHADOW SAGA ON THE TV SHOW!

MEANWHILE, AT THE WHITE HOUSE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ...

SECURITY CAMERA FOOTAGE, MR. PRESIDENT. YOU HAVE TO ORDER ROUGE'S IMMEDIATE ARREST.

MISTER PRESIDENT, I DISAGREE WITH CAPTAIN WESTWOOD'S ASSESSMENT. I DON'T BELIEVE ROUGE HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE THEFT!

THEN HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THIS, AGENT TOPAZ?

IT'S A STANDARD ISSUE G.U.M. LIPSTICK LASER, JUST LIKE THE ONE ISSUED TO ROUGE THE BAT.

IT WAS FOUND IN THE MUSEUM.

I'M SORRY, AGENT TOPAZ. I DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE.

I'M ORDERING YOU TO TAKE ROUGE INTO CUSTODY UNTIL WE CAN SORT THIS WHOLE MESS OUT.

TOPAZ RETURNS TO HER OFFICE TO CARRY OUT HER ORDERS, ONLY TO FIND...

ROUGE?

ROUGE, WHERE ARE YOU?

SHE'S GONE!



YOU HAVE
TO LET ME
STAY HERE,
KNUCKLES...



...I'M BEING SET UP
I DIDN'T STEAL
THAT STUPID MOON
EMERALD.



I DON'T
KNOW,
ROUGE...

I'LL HELP YOU
GUARD THE
MASTER
EMERALD.



I DON'T
NEED
HELP...!

SURE YOU
DO.
WOULDN'T
YOU LIKE TO
TAKE A
NICE DAY
OFF?

MAYBE
TAKE A
LONG NAP?
YOU LOOK
TIRED.



I'M
NOT
TIRED!

NO--
YOU
REALLY
NEED A
NAP.



WHAT
--?



I'M SORRY, KNUCKLES...

HEY!

...BUT YOU REALLY NEED A NAP!



YOU KNOW, I DON'T NORMALLY HIT A LADY...

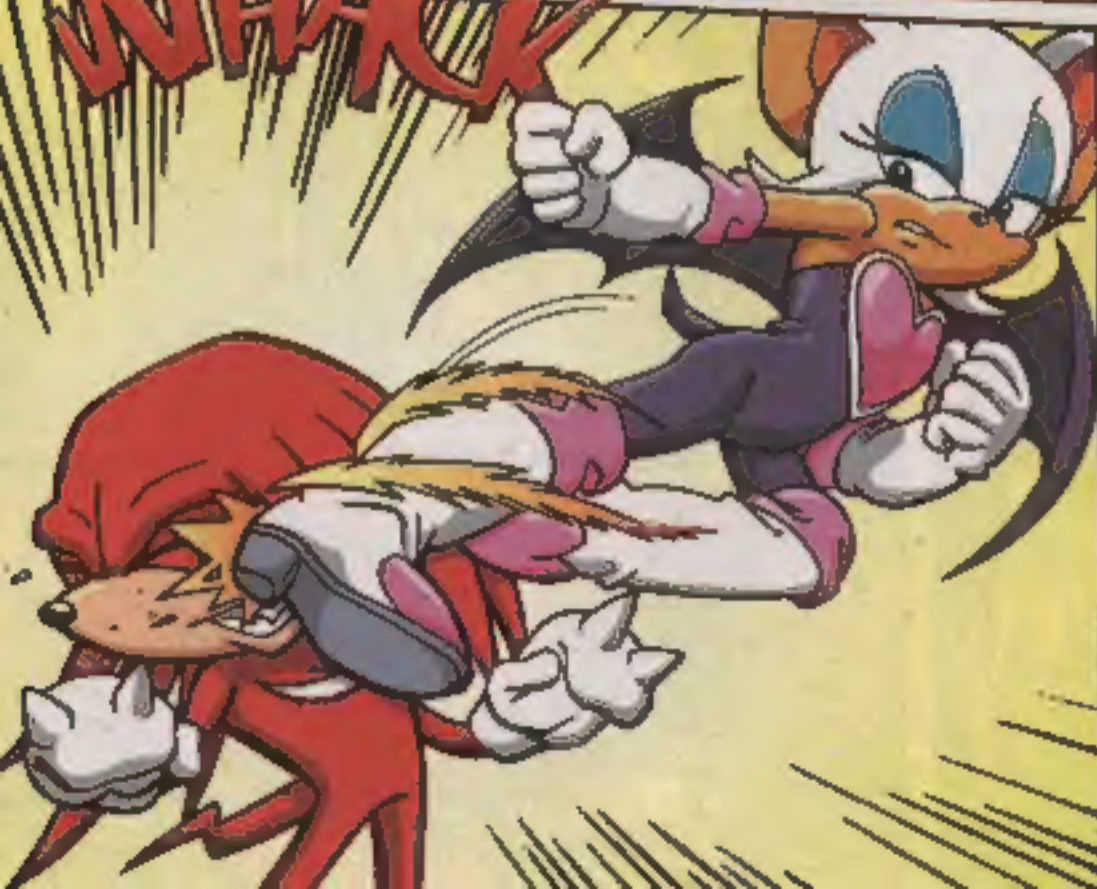


...BUT YOU'RE NO LADY!

YOU HAVE NO IDEA!



CATCH YA LATER, KNUCKLE-HEAD!



WHACK

THE NEXT DAY, IN AGENT TOPAZ'S OFFICE AT G.U.N. HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON, D.C....

I DON'T KNOW WHERE ROUGE WENT, SONIC, BUT EVERYONE SAYS RUNNING AWAY MAKES HER LOOK GUILTY.

THERE'S GOT TO BE MORE TO THE STORY, TOPAZ.

I KNOW.

BUT UNLESS ROUGE COMES BACK, EVERYONE'S GOING TO THINK SHE'S BECOME A THIEF AGAIN.



KNUCKLES! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WHERE'S ROUGE?

WHY ARE YOU LOOKING FOR HER?

SHE STOLE THE MASTER EMERALD!



REALLY?

DO YOU THINK I CAME CRASHING THROUGH YOUR WINDOW JUST FOR KICKS?



I TOLD YOU ROUGE COULDN'T BE TRUSTED.

NOW THAT WE HAVE AN EYE-WITNESS TO HER CRIMES, WE HAVE TO BRING HER IN!

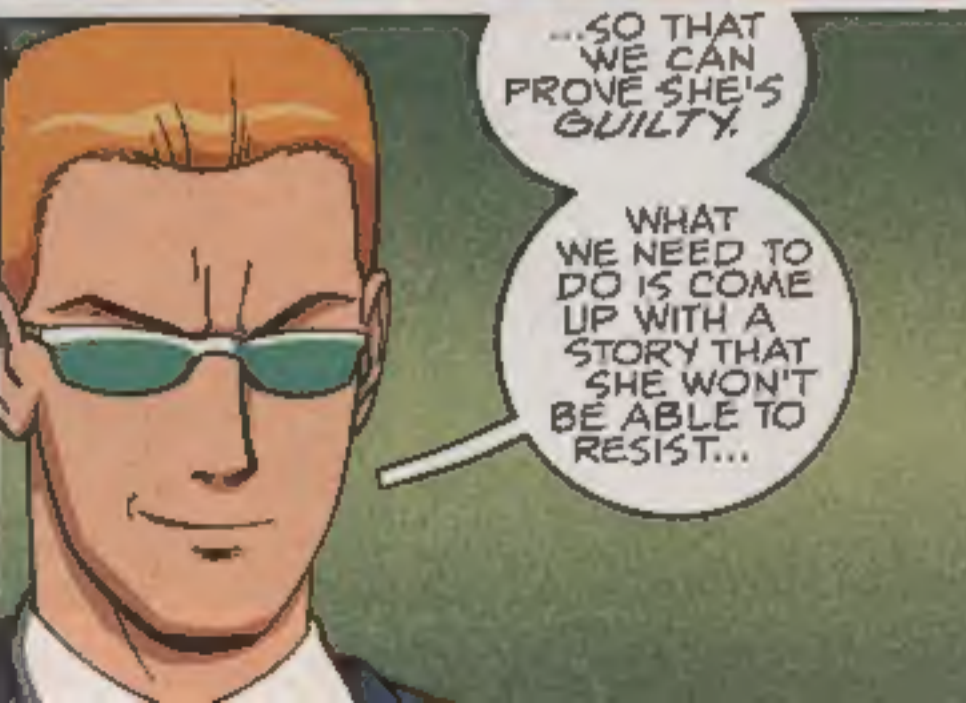


WHAT WE NEED IS A WAY TO DRAW HER OUT OF HIDING SO SHE CAN PROVE HER INNOCENCE.



SONIC'S RIGHT.

WE HAVE TO DRAW HER OUT OF HIDING...



...SO THAT WE CAN PROVE SHE'S GUILTY.

WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS COME UP WITH A STORY THAT SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO RESIST...

ONE WEEK LATER,
OUTSIDE THE
SMITHSONIAN
INSTITUTE IN
WASHINGTON, D.C.

I'M PLEASED
TO ANNOUNCE OUR
NEW EXHIBIT--THE
WORLD'S LARGEST
CHAOS EMERALD,
RECENTLY FOUND
IN ALASKA...

I TOLD YOU
ROUGE
WOULDN'T
SHOW UP.

SHE'LL BE HERE.
JUST YOU WAIT.

THAT
NIGHT..

EVEN IF SHE
WAS GUILTY, SHE'S
TOO SMART TO
FALL FOR A
TRAP LIKE THIS,
WESTWOOD!

IF ANY-
ONE'S GOING
TO SHOW UP
TO TRY TO
STEAL YOUR
FAKE CHAOS
EMERALD...

...IT'S
DOCTOR
EGGMAN.

DID YOU EVER
STOP TO THINK
THAT ROUGE AND
EGGMAN ARE
IN ON THIS
TOGETHER?

ALL I KNOW
IS IT WAS
ROUGE WHO
STOLE THE
MASTER
EMERALD.

.. AND I'M
GOING TO
MAKE HER
PAY FOR
IT..

LISTEN,
COWBOY,
ROUGE
WOULD
NEVER
WORK FOR
EGGMAN!

AND SHE'S
NOT GOING
TO BE
FOOLED BY
A HUGE
CUBIC
ZIRCONIUM!

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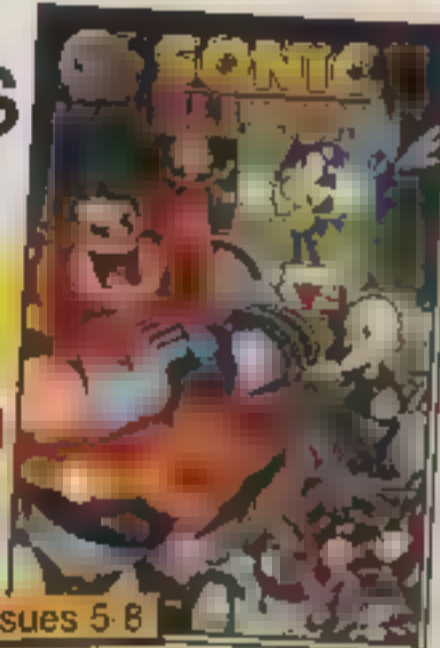
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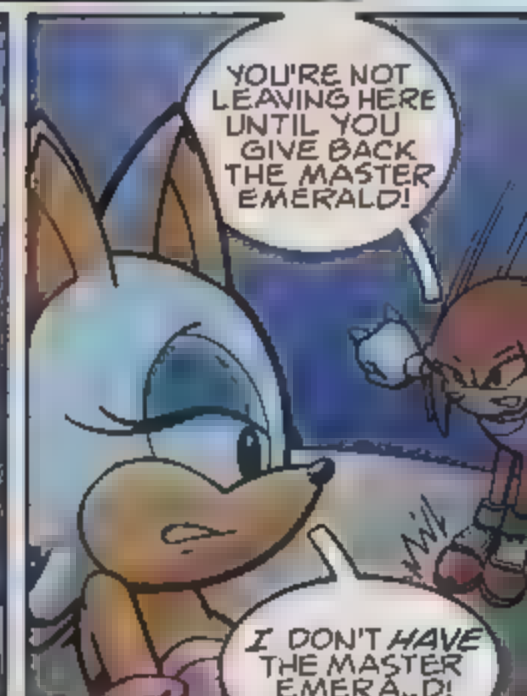
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A panel showing Sonic and Rouge. Sonic is on the left, looking towards Rouge on the right. The background is a dark, cloudy sky with a crescent moon.

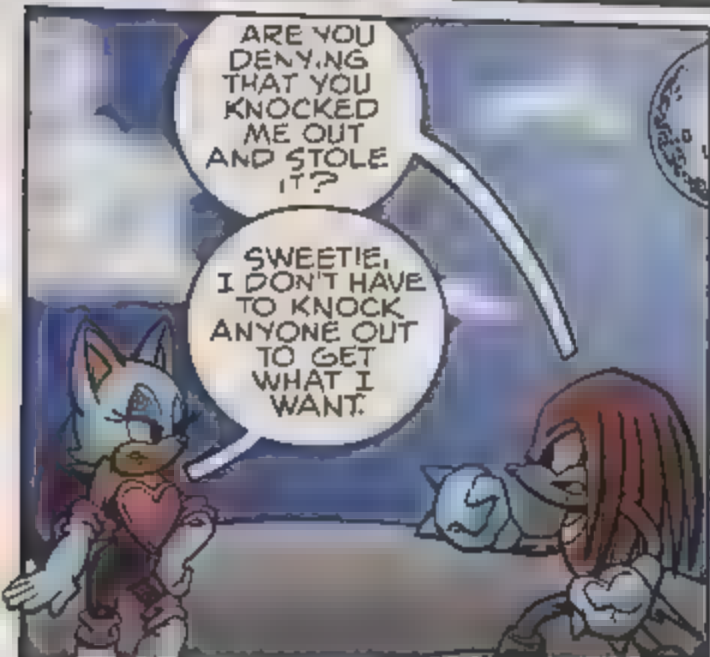
ALL RIGHT, YOU FLYING RAT! GIVE IT BACK!

ARE YOUR DREADLOCKS WOUND TOO TIGHT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

A close-up panel of Sonic looking slightly to the right with a serious expression. Rouge is partially visible in the background on the right.

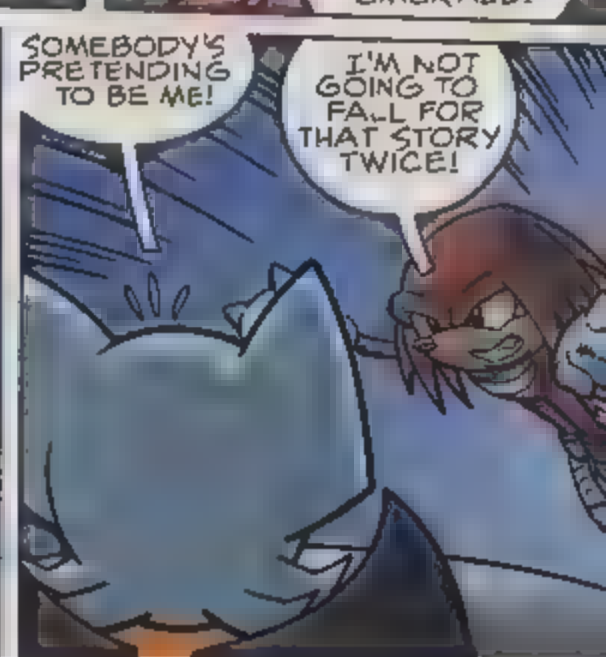
YOU'RE NOT LEAVING HERE UNTIL YOU GIVE BACK THE MASTER EMERALD!

I DON'T HAVE THE MASTER EMERALD!

A panel showing Sonic and Rouge. Sonic is on the left, looking towards Rouge on the right. The background is a dark, cloudy sky with a crescent moon.

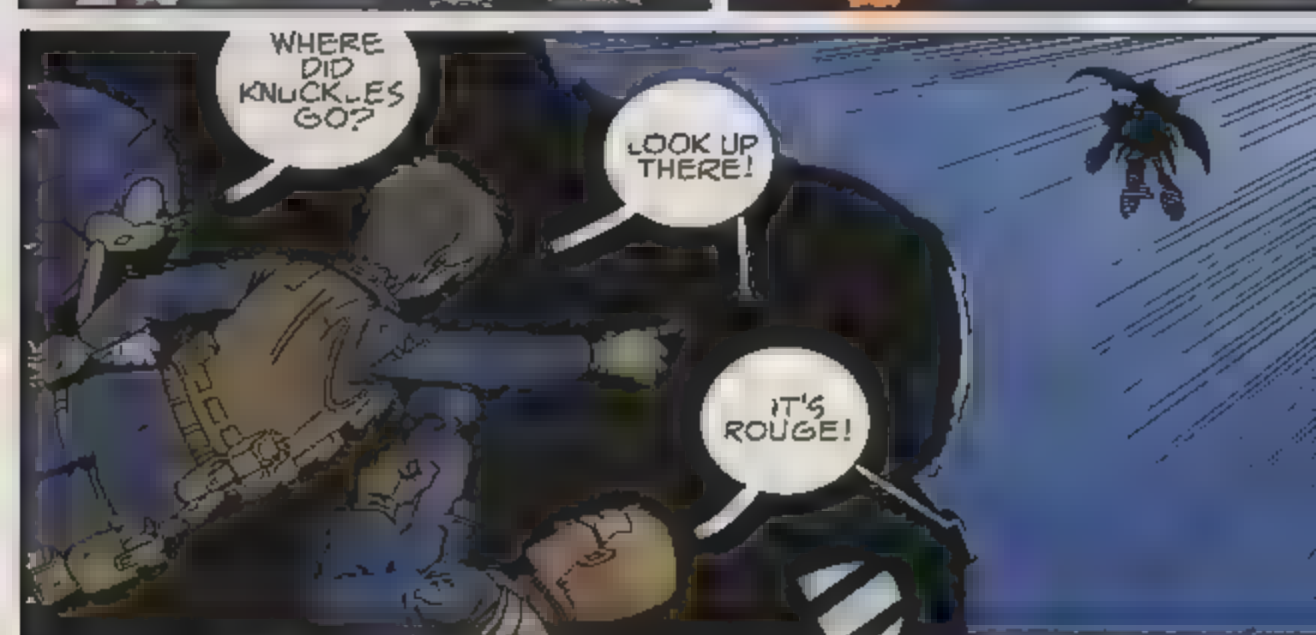
ARE YOU DENYING THAT YOU KNOCKED ME OUT AND STOLE IT?

SWEETIE, I DON'T HAVE TO KNOCK ANYONE OUT TO GET WHAT I WANT.

A close-up panel of Rouge looking towards the left with a determined expression. Her hands are clenched into fists.

SOMEBODY'S PRETENDING TO BE ME!

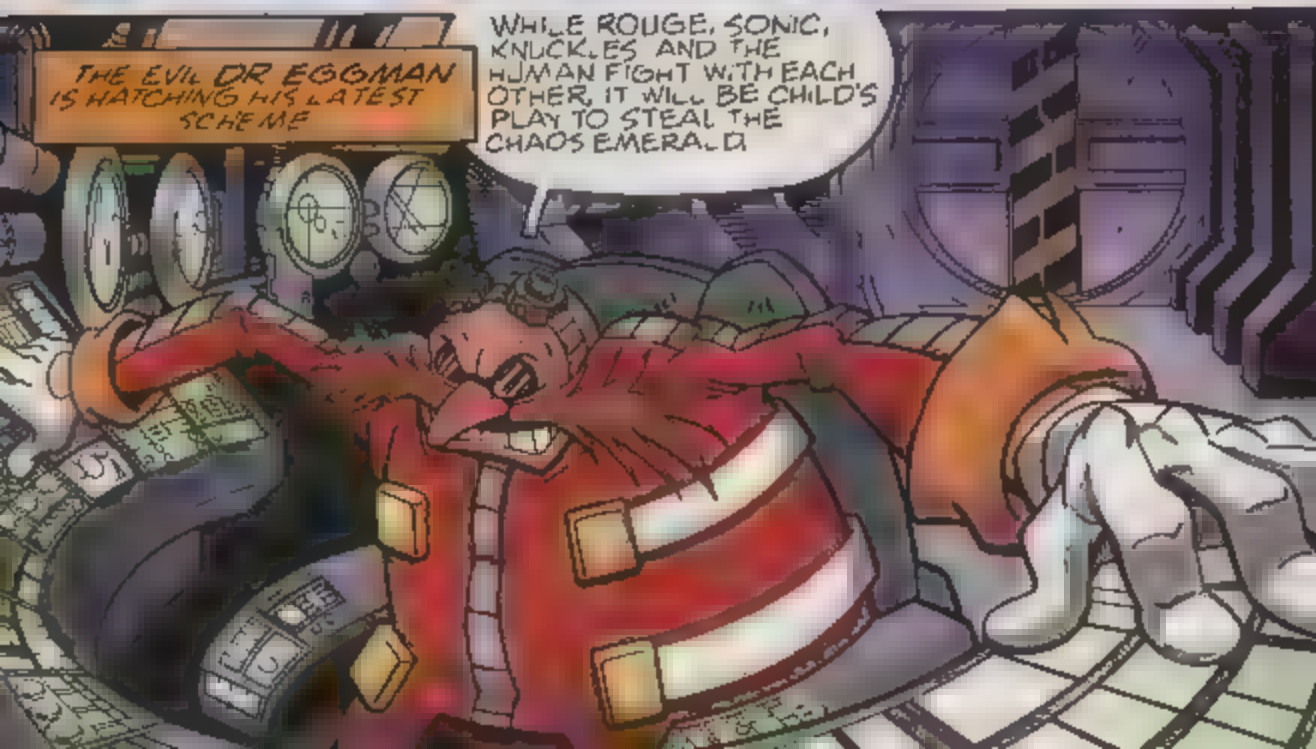
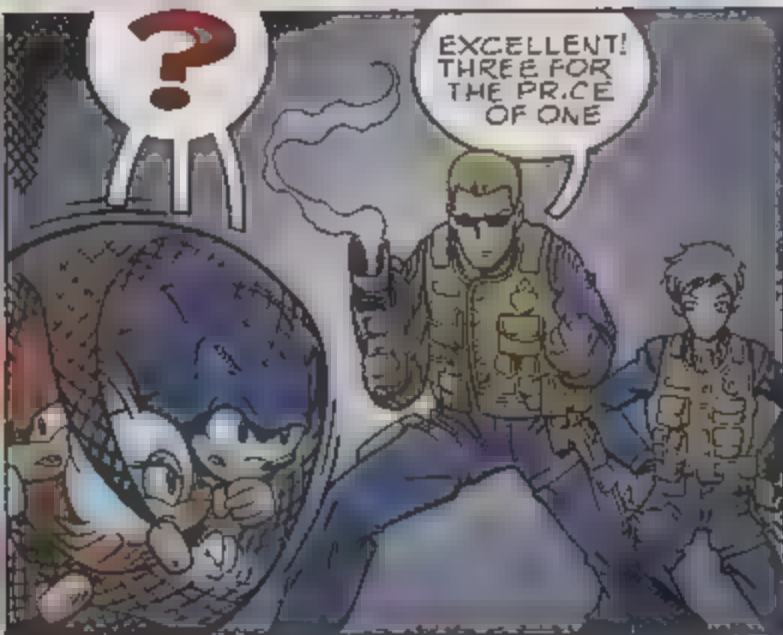
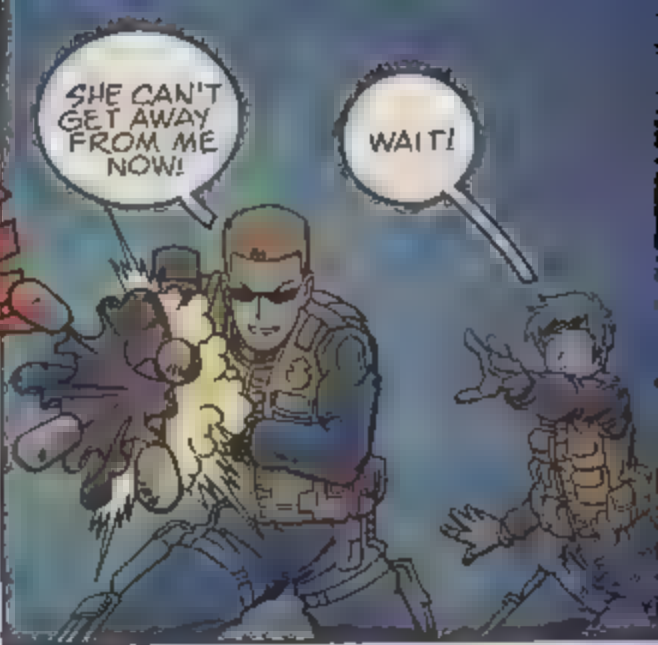
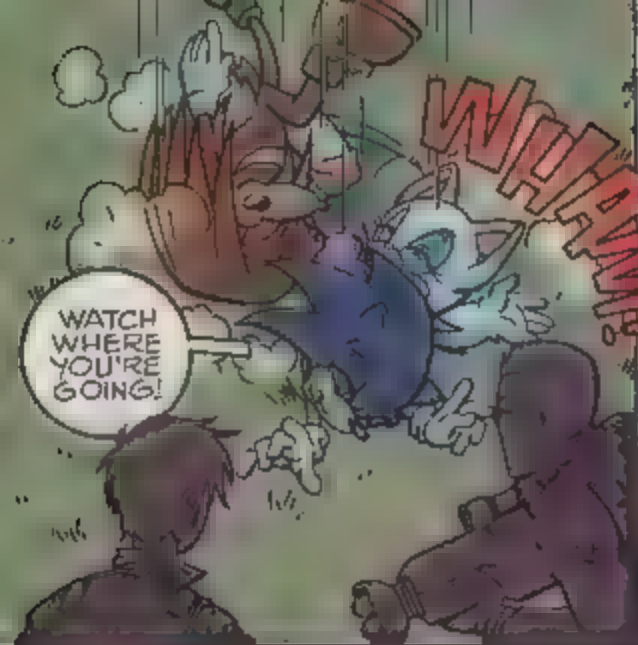
I'M NOT GOING TO FALL FOR THAT STORY TWICE!

A panel showing Sonic and Rouge. Sonic is on the left, looking towards Rouge on the right. The background is a dark, cloudy sky with a crescent moon.

WHERE DID KNUCKLES GO?

LOOK UP THERE!

IT'S ROUGE!



THE TIME HAS COME MY DEAR...

GO GET THE CHAOS EMERALD FOR ME!

YES, MASTER

BACK AT THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE

LET US OUT OF THIS!

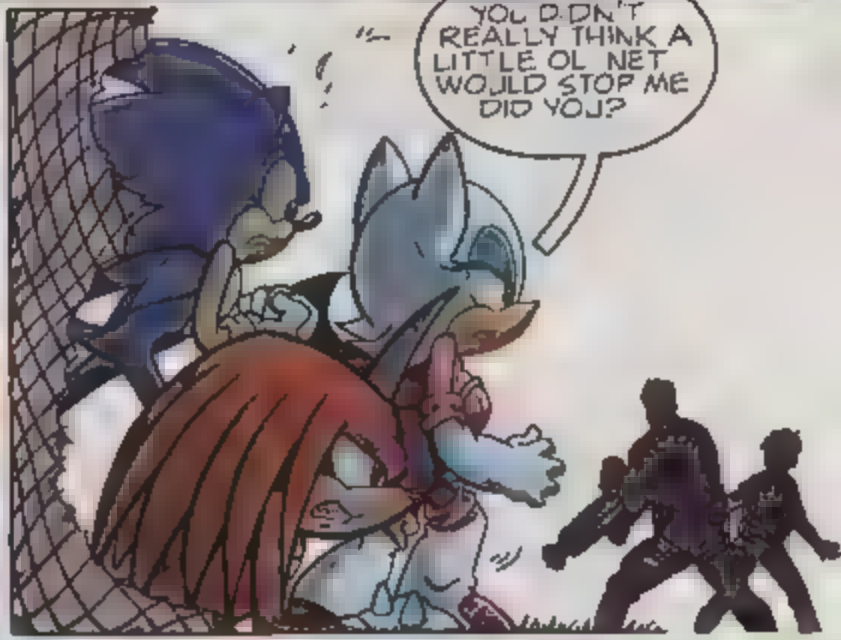
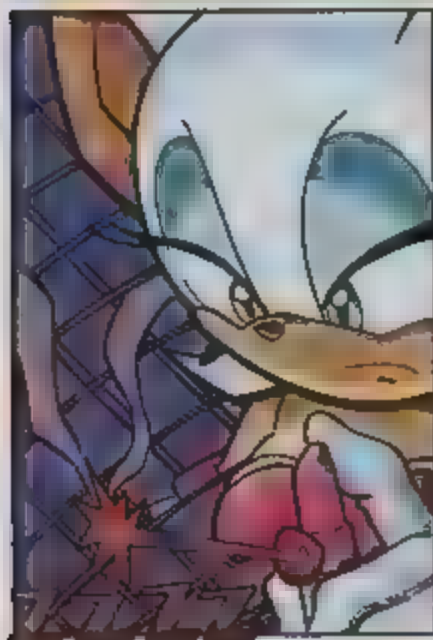
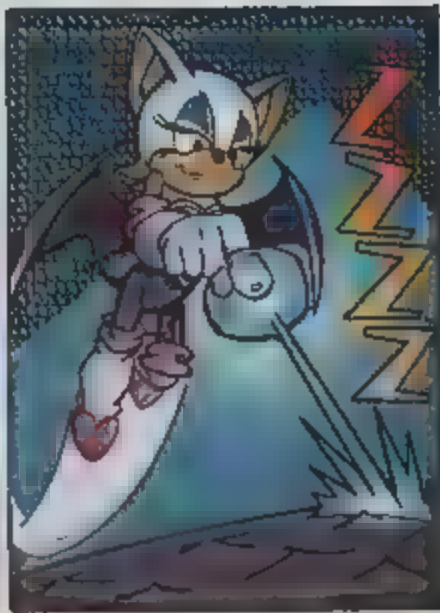
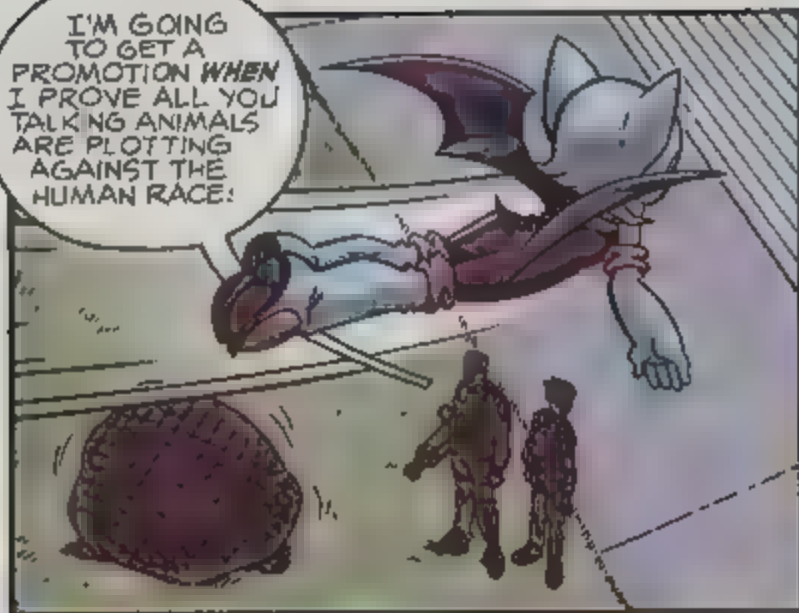
ONLY IF ROLGE PROMISES NOT TO TRY TO ESCAPE

I'M NOT PROMISING YOU ANYTHING!

DON'T COUNT ON IT.

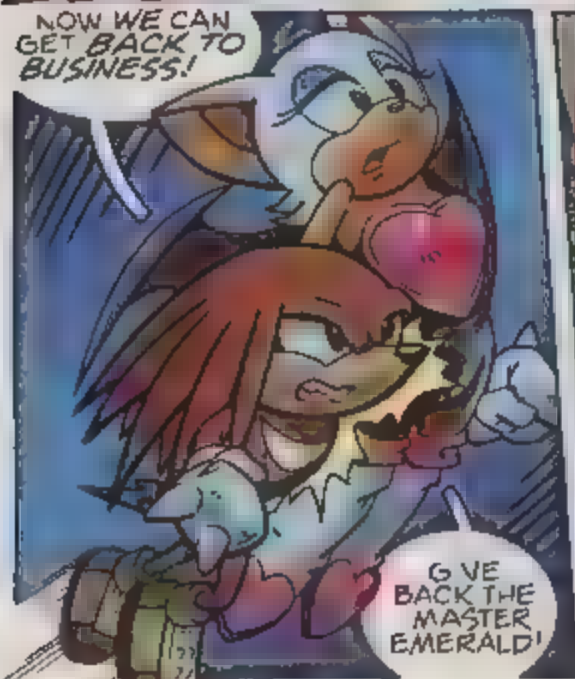
THEN YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE PRISONER TRANSPORT SQUAD ARRIVES.

I'M GOING TO GET A PROMOTION WHEN I PROVE ALL YOU TALKING ANIMALS ARE PLOTTING AGAINST THE HUMAN RACE!

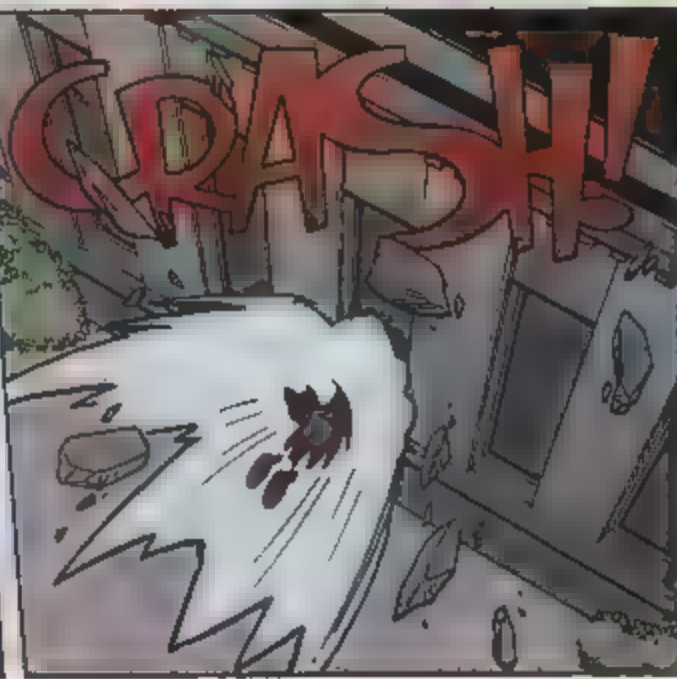


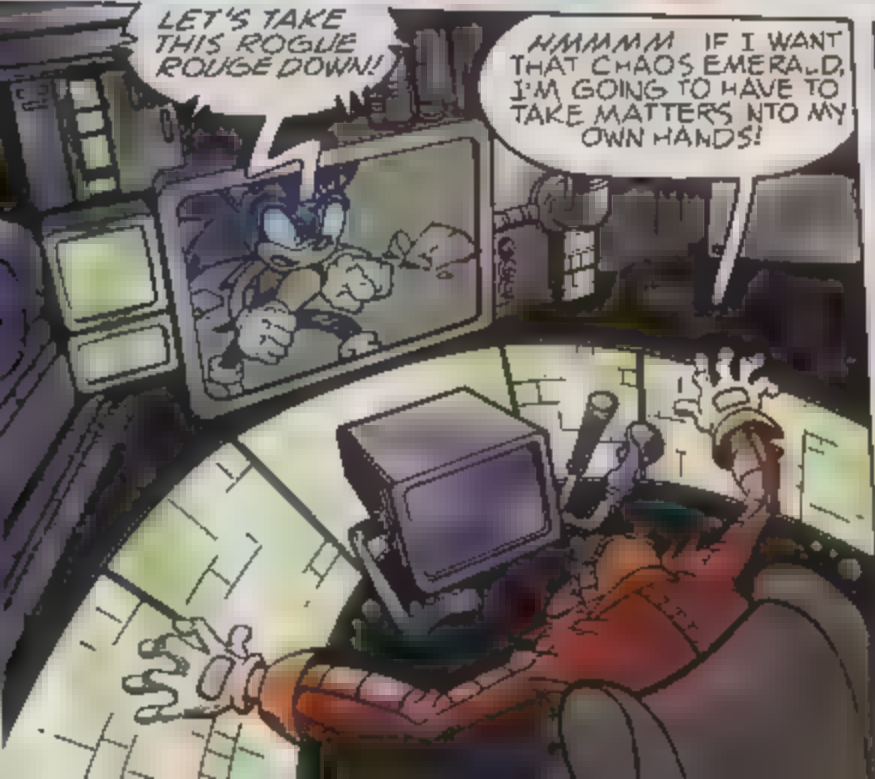
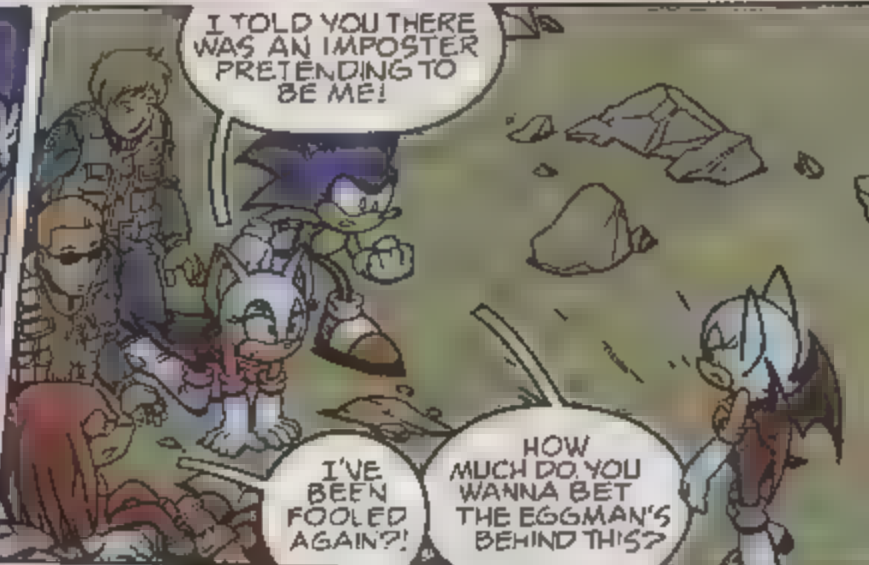
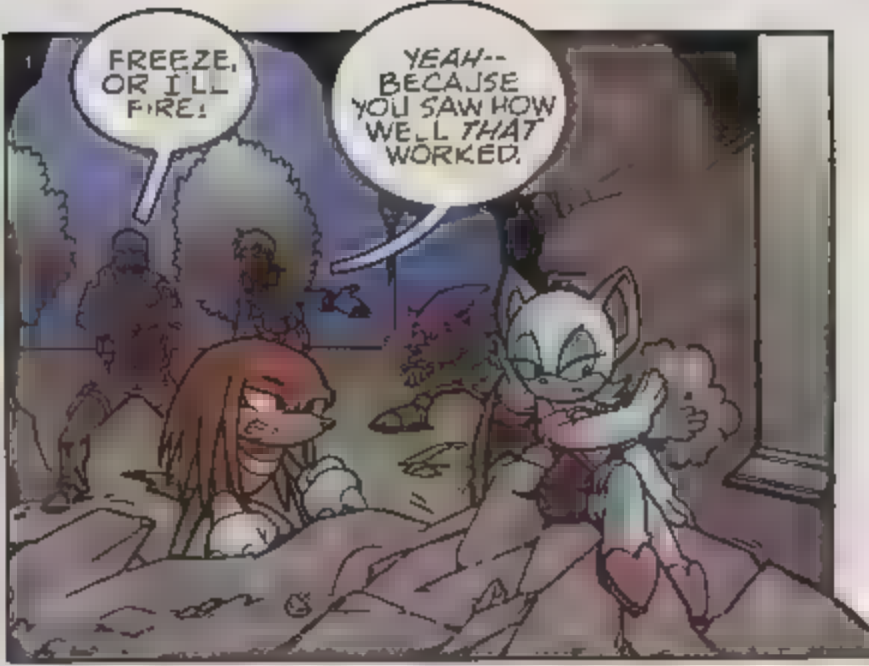
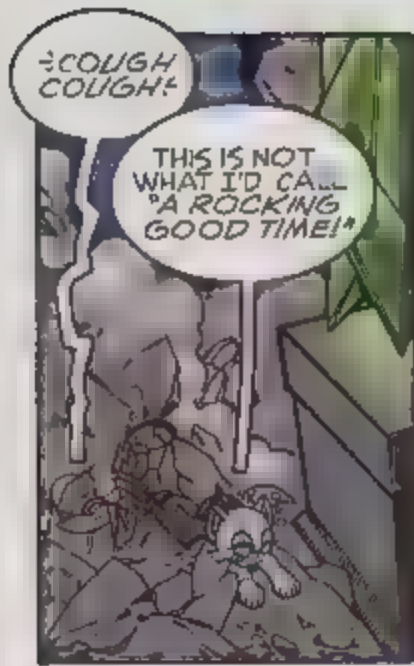
YOU DIDN'T REALLY THINK A LITTLE OL NET WOULD STOP ME DID YOU?

NOW WE CAN GET BACK TO BUSINESS!



GIVE BACK THE MASTER EMERALD!



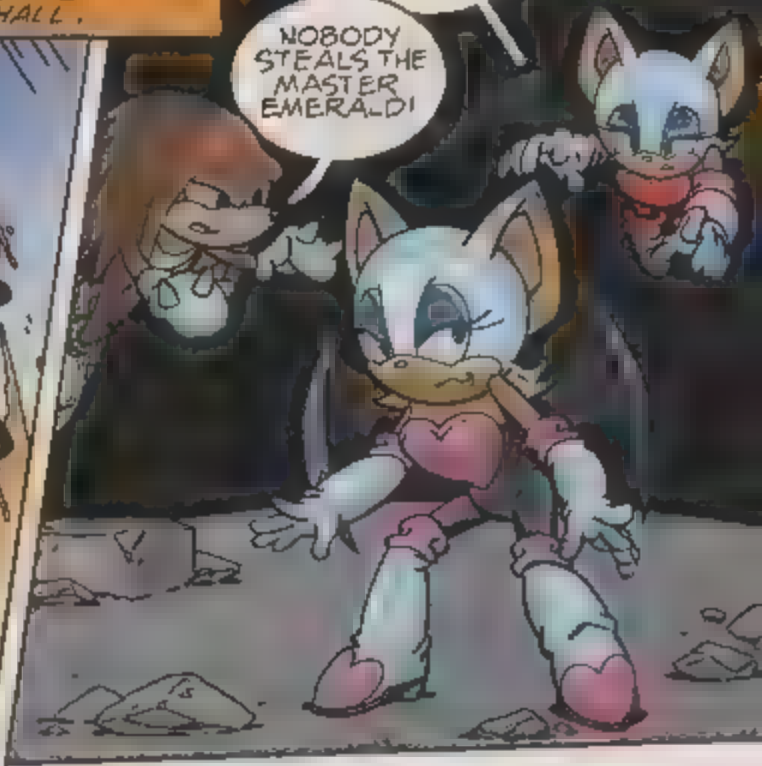
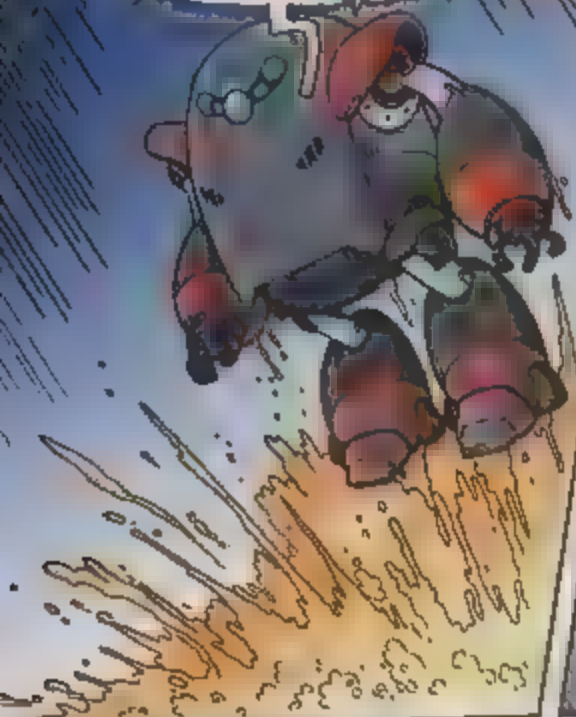


WE'LL MAKE OFF WITH THE EMERALD WHILE THE OTHERS FIGHT MY ROBOT ROUGE!

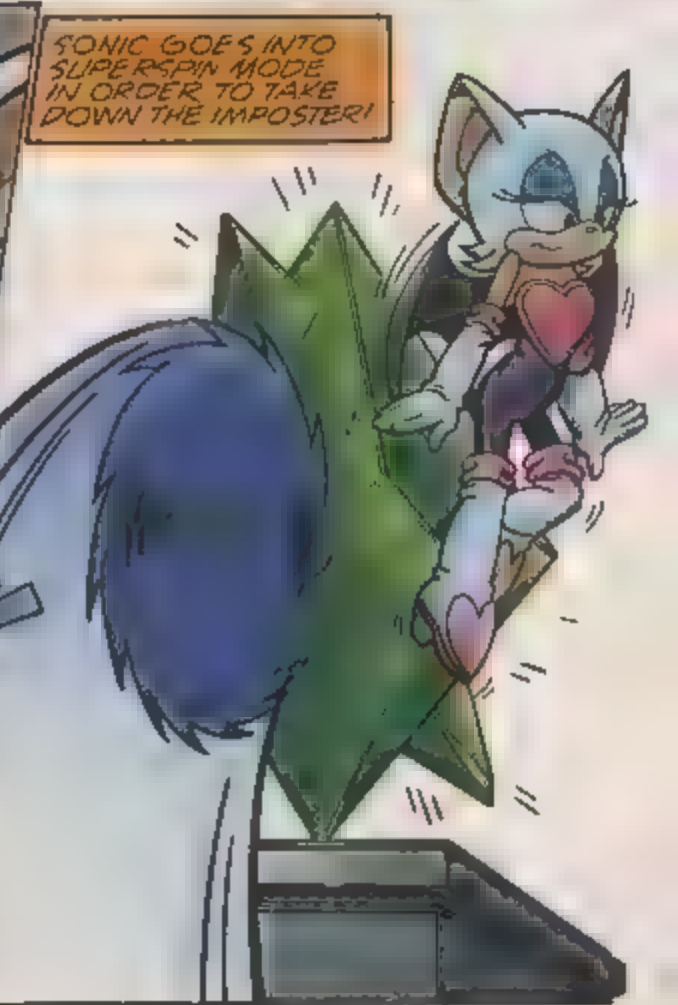
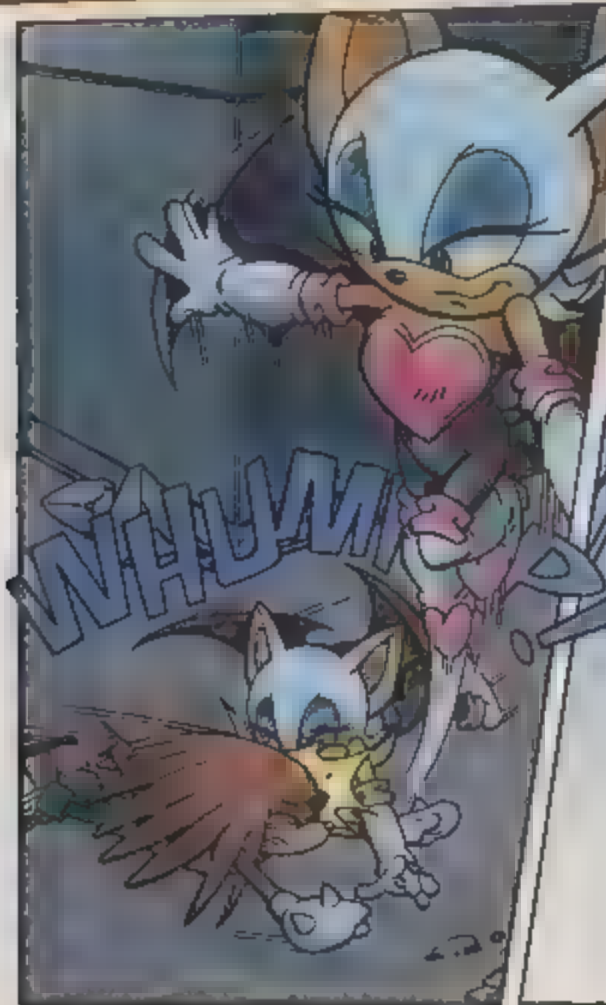
INSIDE THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION'S EXHIBIT HALL.

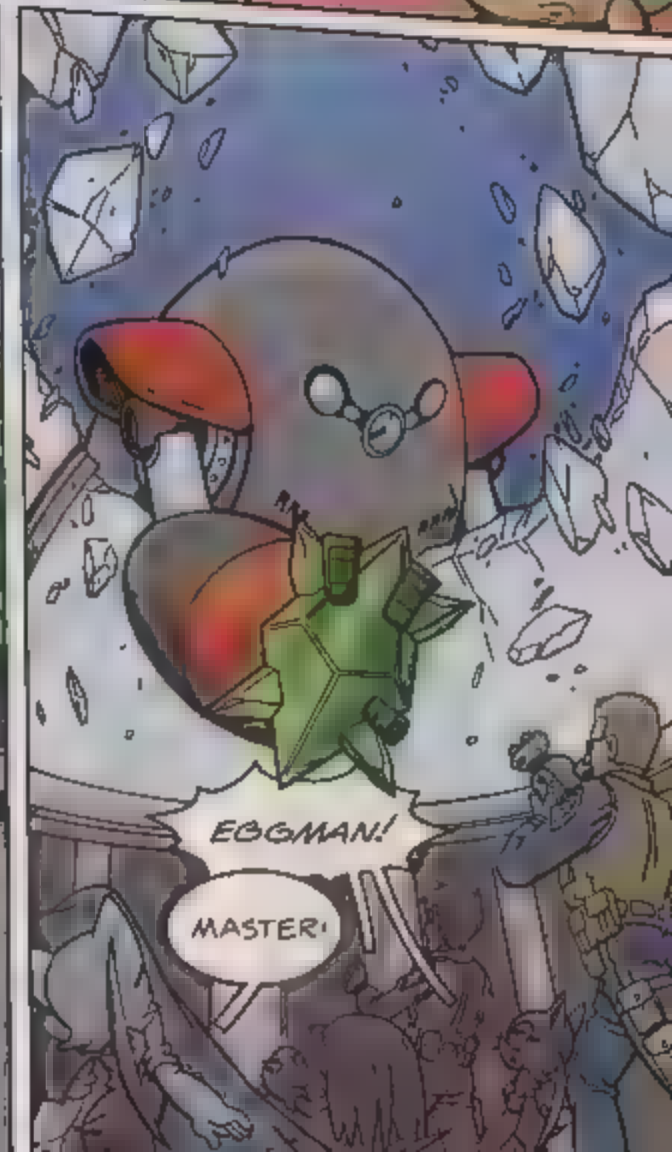
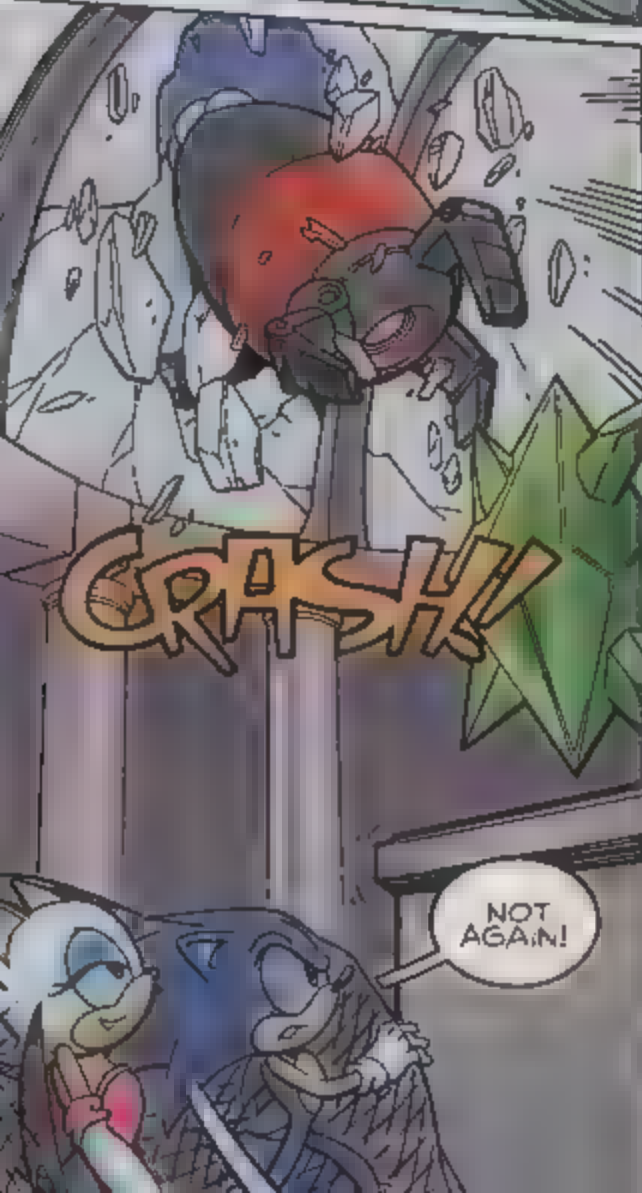
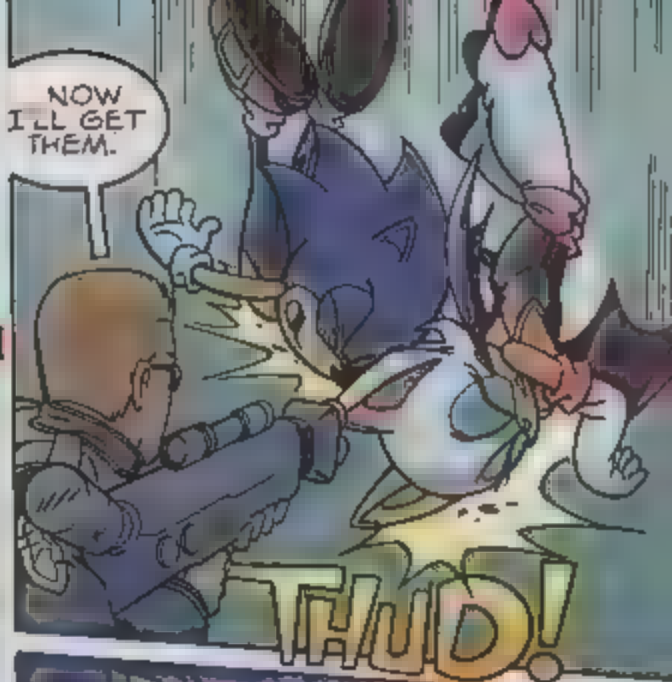
NOBODY STEALS MY ACT!

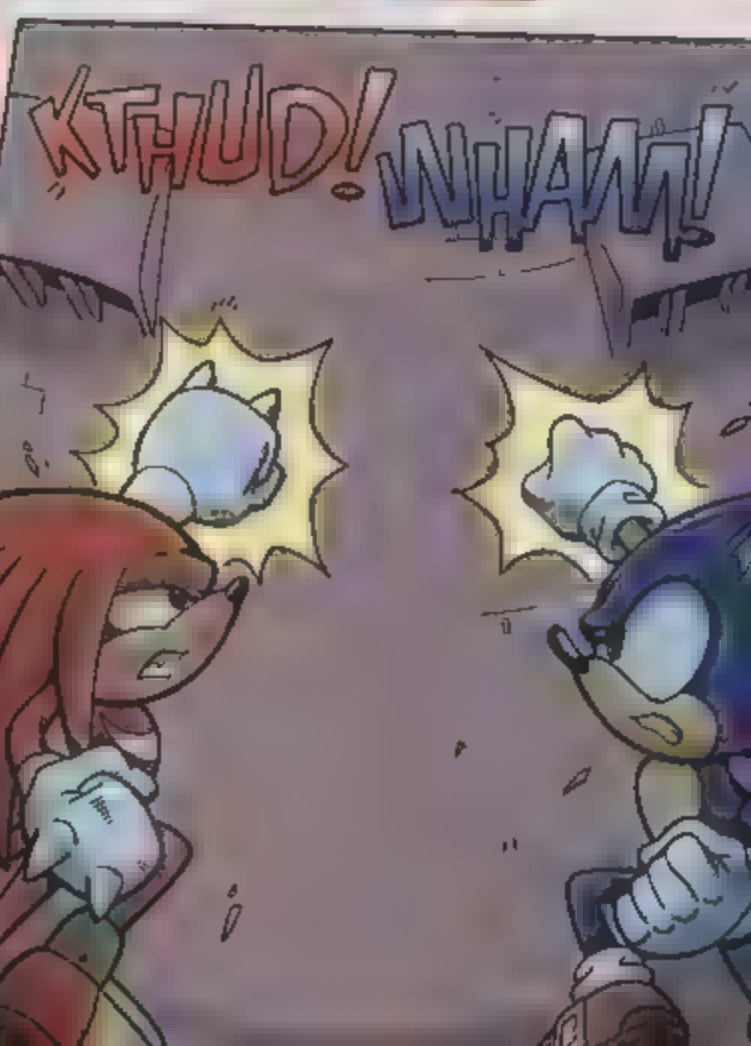
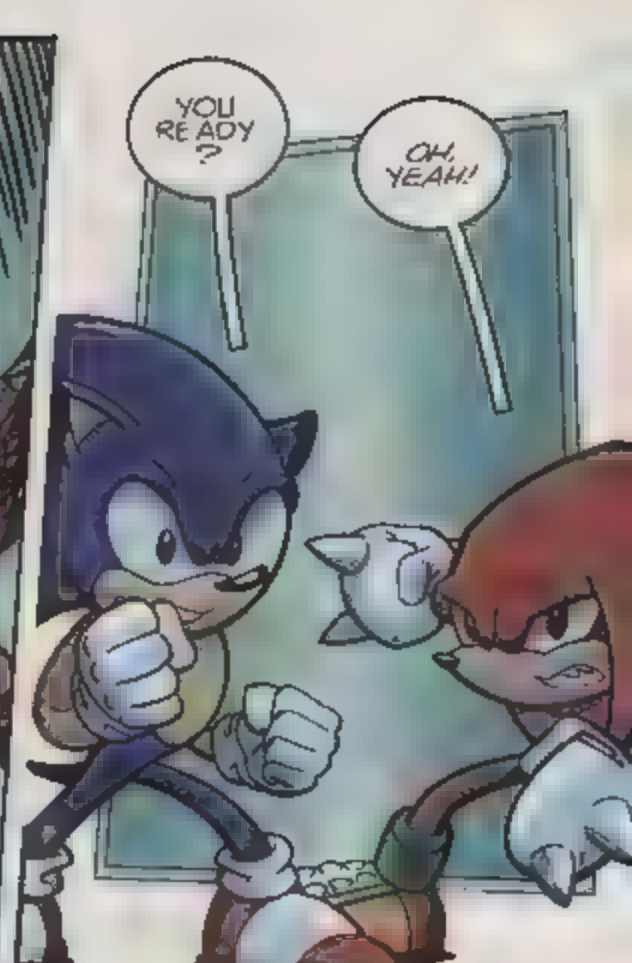
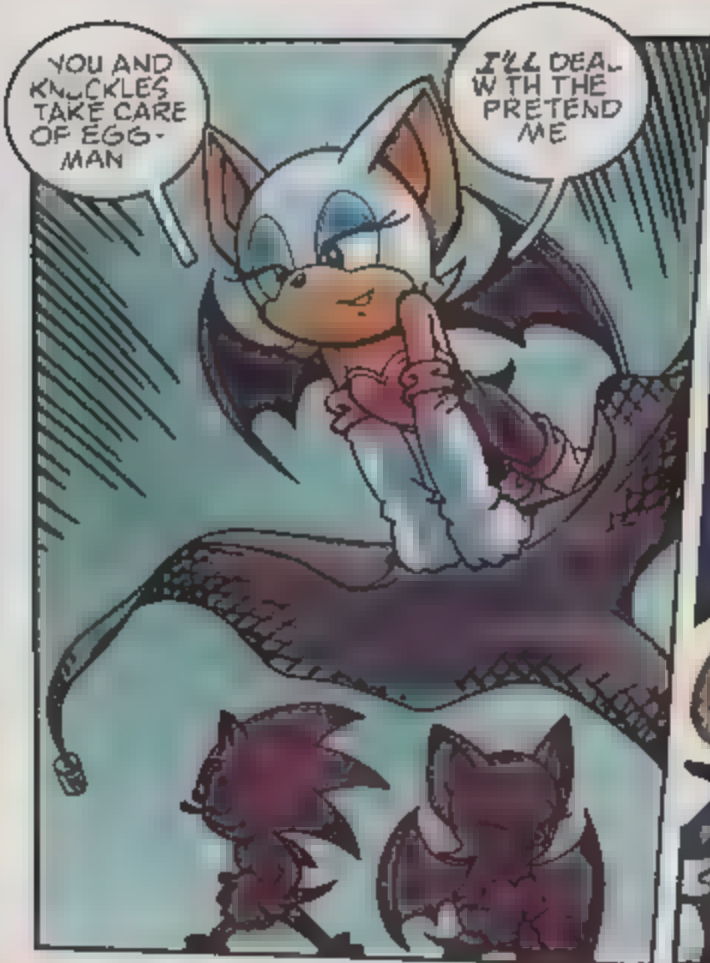
NOBODY STEALS THE MASTER EMERALD!

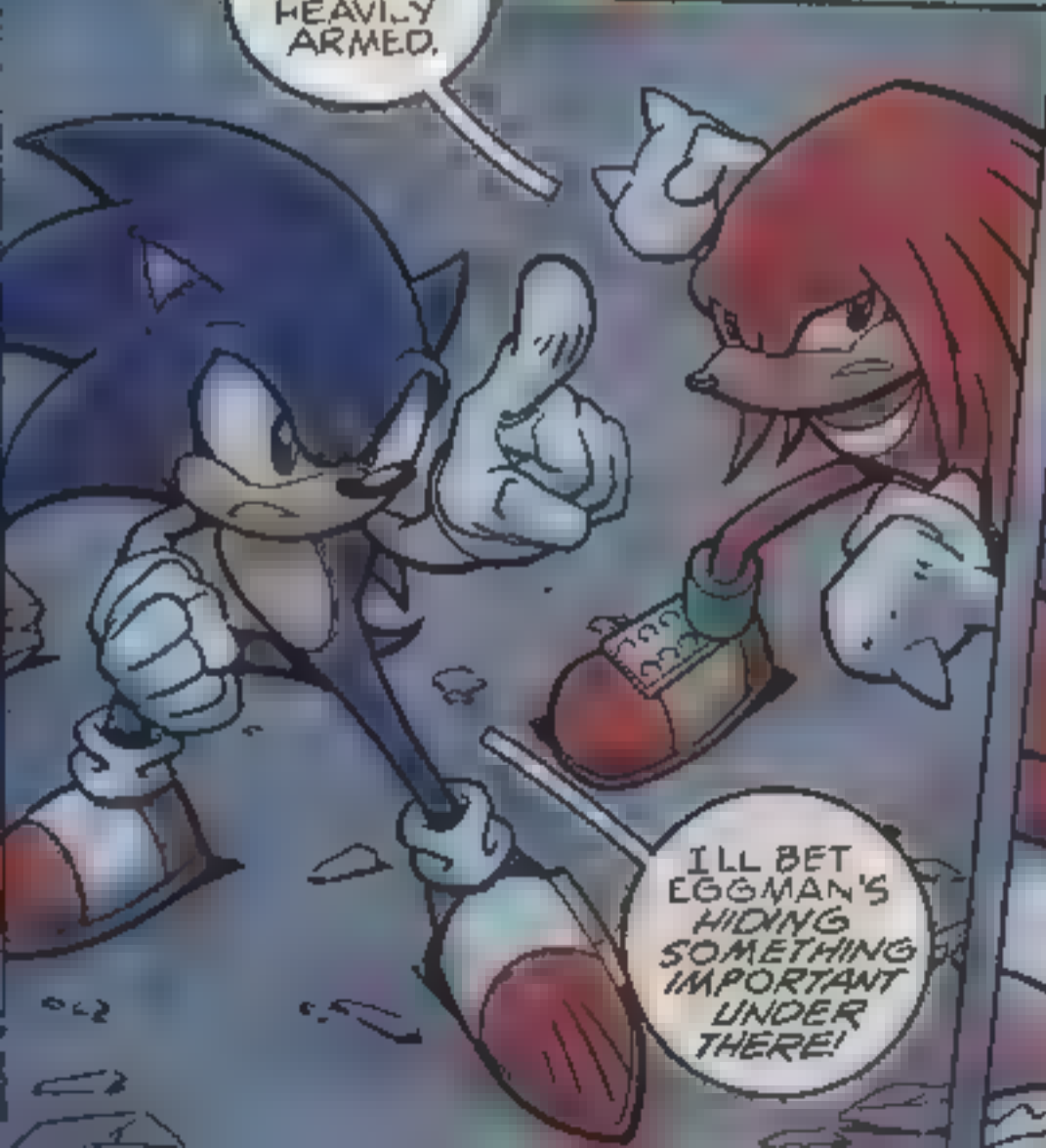
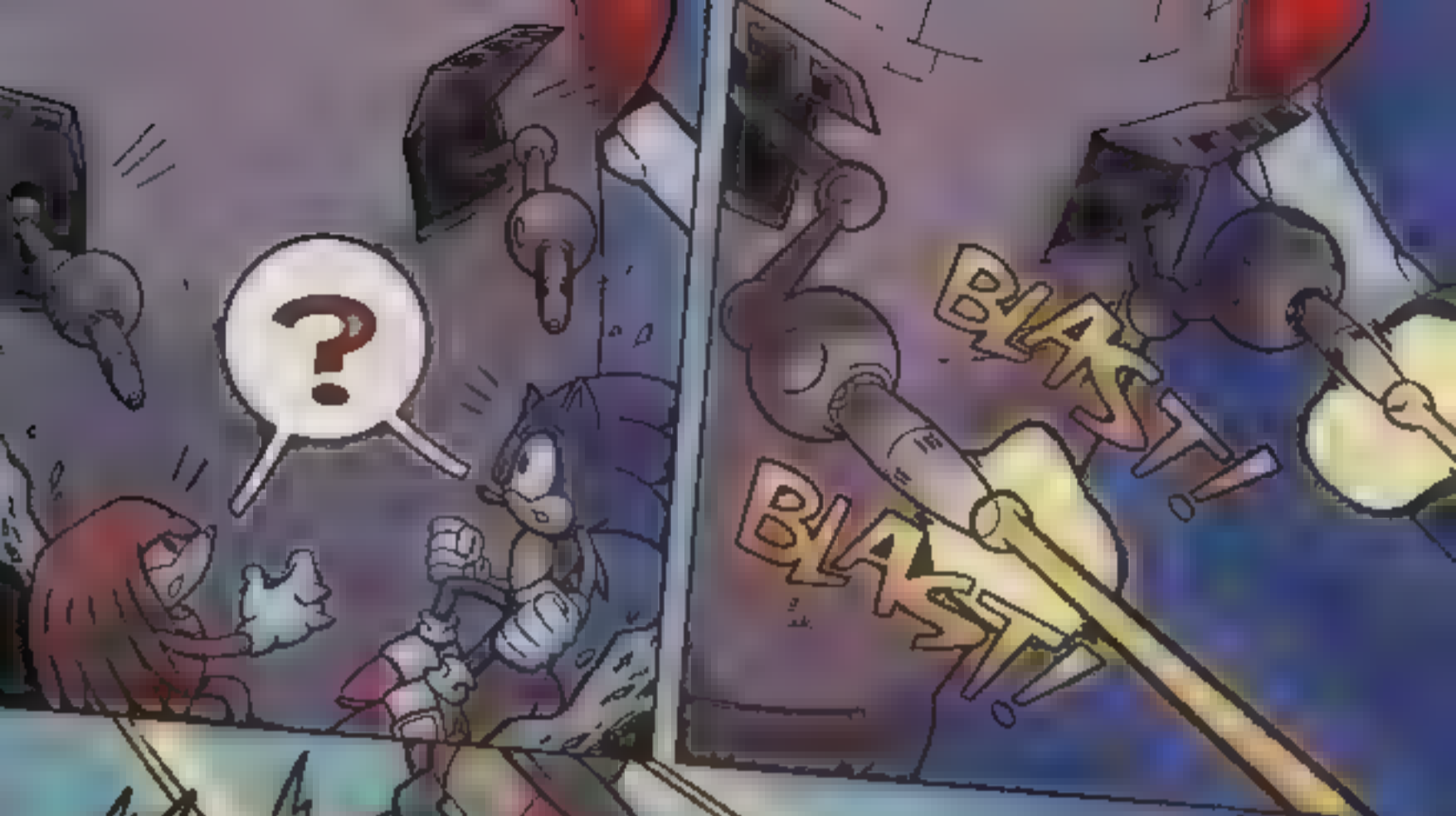


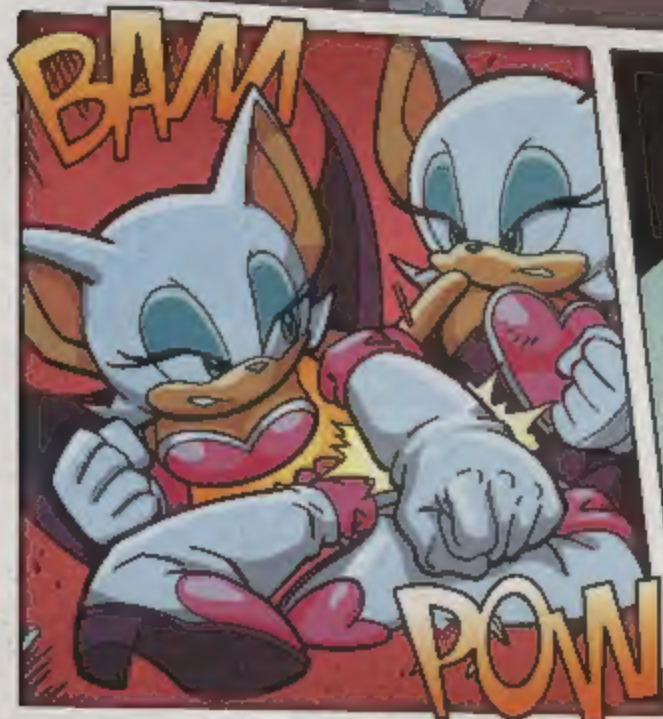
SONIC GOES INTO SUPER SPIN MODE IN ORDER TO TAKE DOWN THE IMPOSTER!

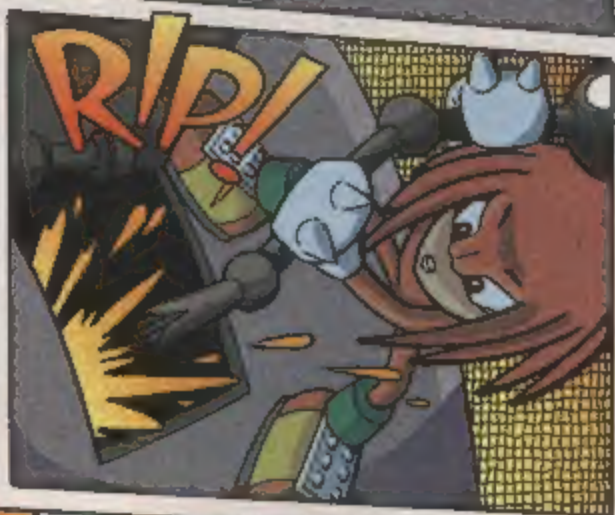
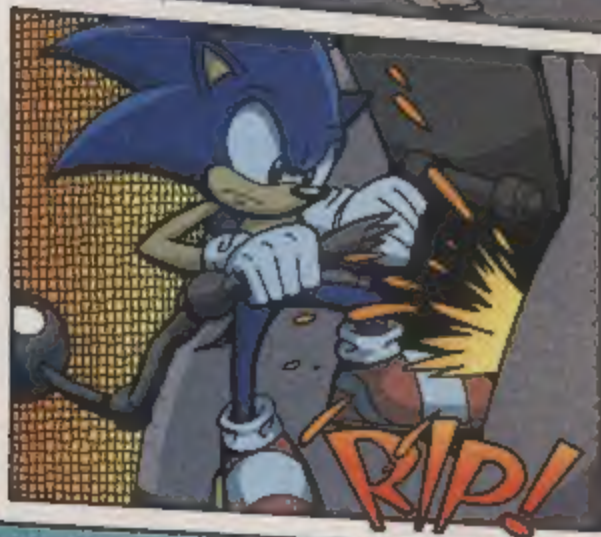












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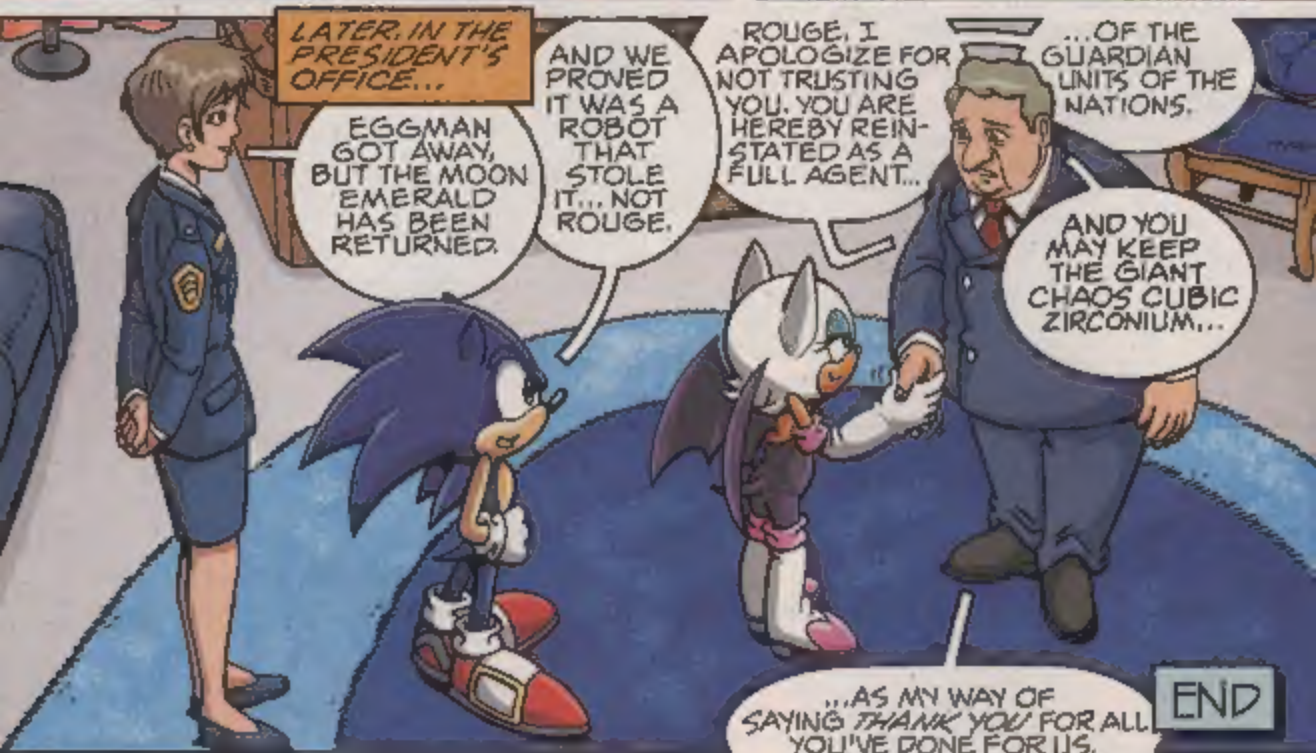


I THINK THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR, KNUCKLES.



YOU MAY HAVE WON THIS TIME, SONIC, BUT I'LL BE BACK.

BRING IT ON, EGGMAN! I'LL BE WAITING!



LATER, IN THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE...

EGGMAN GOT AWAY, BUT THE MOON EMERALD HAS BEEN RETURNED.

AND WE PROVED IT WAS A ROBOT THAT STOLE IT... NOT ROUGE.

ROUGE, I APOLOGIZE FOR NOT TRUSTING YOU. YOU ARE HEREBY REINSTITATED AS A FULL AGENT...

...OF THE GUARDIAN UNITS OF THE NATIONS.

AND YOU MAY KEEP THE GIANT CHAOS CUBIC ZIRCONIUM...

...AS MY WAY OF SAYING THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR US.

END



NEXT ISSUE IS SURE TO BE A WINNER WITH "MUERTA, LAS VEGAS!" LOOK FOR SONIC X#19 ON SALE MAY IN THE MEANTIME, LOOK FOR MORE SONIC ADVENTURE IN SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #174 AND SONIC ARCHIVES VOLUMES 1 & 2 ON SALE NOW!

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